

Wathawurrung language

Wathawurrung, also rendered as **Wathaurong** or **Wada wurrung**, formerly sometimes **Barrabool**, is the Aboriginal Australian language spoken by the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation of Central Victoria. It was spoken by 15 clans south of the Werribee River and the Bellarine Peninsula to Streatham.

Placenames derived from Wathawurrung language terms

Wathawurrung	
	Wathaurong
Region	Victoria
Ethnicity	Wathaurong people
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	Pama–Nyungan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kulinic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kulin<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wathawurrung
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	wth
Glottolog	wath1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/wath1238) ^[1]
AIATSIS ^[2]	S29 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/australian-languages/language/S29)



The five Kulin nations. Wathawurrung ('Wathaurong') is in on the coast in green.

Placename	Origin
<u>Barrabool</u>	Unclear, variously reported as "oyster", "slope down to water" or "rounded hill". ^[3]
<u>Barwon</u>	From <i>Barrwang</i> meaning "Magpie", same origin as the town of Parwan.
<u>Bungaree</u>	Meaning "hut" or "tent". ^[4]
<u>Buninyong</u>	From <i>Buninyouang</i> , recorded by early colonists as meaning "Man lying on back with raised knee", in reference to the profile of <u>Mount Buninyong</u> .
<u>Connewarre</u>	From <i>koonoowarra</i> , meaning <u>black swan</u> . Same origin as the town of <u>Koonwarra</u> in South Gippsland. ^[5]
<u>Corio</u>	Possibly "Sandy cliffs", other sources state "small marsupial" or "wallaby".
<u>Geelong</u>	From <i>Djillong</i> , Geelong City Council maintains it means "Land" or "Cliffs", ^[6] other sources suggest it was the original name of <u>Corio Bay</u> . ^[7]
<u>Gheringhap</u>	Either from "gheran" as meaning "timber", then followed by a placename suffix "-hap", ^[8] or a reference to the <u>black wattle</u> tree. ^[9]
<u>Gnarwarre</u>	Said to be from the name of a local wetland and its waterfowl, possibly same origin as <u>Lake Connewarre</u> from <i>kunuwarra</i> for the <u>black swan</u> .
<u>Jan Juc</u>	Either "milk" ^[10] or "ironbark".
<u>Koorweinguboora</u>	Either "where the crane eats frogs" or "land of many waters". ^[11]
<u>Modewarre</u>	The <u>musk duck</u> . ^[12]
<u>Moolap</u>	A meeting place for gathering shellfish.
<u>Moorabool</u>	Either from a word for "ghost" or the name for the <u>curlew</u> .
<u>Moriac</u>	Meaning "hill".
<u>Parwan</u>	From <i>Barrwang</i> meaning "Magpie", same origin as that of the Barwon River.
<u>Wendouree</u>	from <i>wendaaree</i> (the wathawurrong word meaning go away). When settler William Cross Yuille asked a local indigenous woman what the name of the <u>lake</u> was, she told him to go away. hence the name
<u>Werribee</u>	From <i>Wirribi-yaluk</i> , the name of the <u>Werribee River</u> , with <i>Wirribi</i> said to mean "spine" or "backbone". ^[13]
<u>Wingeel</u>	From the word for the <u>wedge-tailed eagle</u> and creator spirit. Compare spelling <u>Bunjil</u> from other Kulin languages
<u>Woody Yaloak River</u>	From <i>Wurdi-yaluk</i> meaning "big creek".
<u>You Yangs</u>	Reportedly <i>Ude Youang</i> , meaning "big mountains". ^[14]

References

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